

PLAINFIELD RENEWABLE ENERGY LLC

**Community Outreach/Environmental Justice
Implementation Report**

**Volume Reduction Facility
Mill Brook Road, Plainfield CT**

October 2006



By:



Anchor Engineering Services, Inc.
75 Nutmeg Lane
Glastonbury, Connecticut 06033
With Project Management Associates LLC

**PLAINFIELD RENEWABLE ENERGY LLC
COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
IMPLEMENTATION REPORT
VOLUME REDUCTION FACILITY
MILL BROOK ROAD, PLAINFIELD, CT**

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Overview

Plainfield Renewable Energy LLC ("PRE") is developing a biomass gasification facility to be situated on currently vacant industrial-zoned land in Plainfield, CT. The parcel is located at the intersection of Mill Brook Road and Norwich Road (State Route 12), with the proposed entrance off Mill Brook Road.

The facility will accept and gasify biomass-wood using a commercially proven technology. The gas stream will be used on-site to generate approximately 37.5 MW of renewable energy for delivery to the State's power system. The following biomass wood streams will be utilized, as may be defined in Connecticut applicable law (Statute and Regulation):

"Land Clearing Debris"; such as chipped trees, stumps, branches or brush;

"Recycled Wood" or Clean Wood"; chipped pallets, skids, spools, packaging materials, bulky wood waste or scraps from newly built wood products

"Regulated Wood Fuel"; consisting of processed wood from construction and demolition activities.

"Processed Construction and Demolition Wood"; consisting of processed wood recovered from construction and demolition activities.

"Other Clean Wood"; including other types of properly sized, clean, uncontaminated wood materials, such as sawdust, chips, bark, tree trimmings or other similar materials.

Applications

PRE has submitted applications as follows:

- a. To the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection ("CTDEP");
 - An application to construct and operate a volume reduction facility that would gasify biomass wood from a wide range of sources; and,
 - An application to construct and operate an air emission source.
- b. To the Connecticut Siting Council, a Petition for a Declaratory Ruling that No Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is Required for the facility.

In addition, PRE expects to submit in the near future related applications for water supply and discharges.

Community Outreach/Environmental Justice Plan

In September, 2006, a draft Community Outreach Environmental Justice Plan ("Draft Plan") was submitted to the CTDEP for review and comment. The Draft Plan also reported on a public informational meeting that took place on February 2, 2006 in the Plainfield Town Hall, in addition to a discussion of the planned future activities. A copy of the submittal is contained in Appendix A for ease of reference.

The Applicant

PRE is a Norwalk, CT based Joint Venture of NuPower & Decker. NuPower LLC is an in-State renewable power developer, and Decker Energy International, Inc. is a developer/operator of biomass projects. Decker has an ownership interest in two operating biomass facilities totaling 84 MW of capacity, with a combined \$150 million capital cost (one plant in Michigan and one in North Carolina). Since 1982, Decker has been involved with fourteen diverse power projects totaling 1,000 MW and \$700 million in capital cost, including six biomass facilities.

Impacted Community Areas

The facility will be located off of Mill Brook Road in Plainfield. The address currently assigned to the site is 885 Norwich Road. The site is bordered by the Providence & Worcester Railroad on the west, State Route 12 (and certain parcels) on the east, Town property along Mill Brook on the north, and Mill Brook Road on the south. Existing facilities located in the immediate vicinity on the east are the Shetucket Plumbing Supply Co. at 873 Norwich Road and a few single family residential units located within the Industrial Zone. To the west, along, Mill Brook Road is the significant, relatively new Lowe's warehouse. The parcel to the south of the site and across Mill Brook Road is undeveloped.

Interstate 395 is very close to the site. The site is approached from I-395 by exiting onto Lathrop Road (exit 87) and then turning south on State Route 12. Refer to Figure 1 for a description of the site vicinity. The intersection of Route 12 and Mill Brook Road was improved as part of the Lowe's project, which is a major truck traffic generator. Vehicles will access the site from commercially traveled public highways and routes and are not required to travel through residential neighborhoods. There are no known community centers or educational institutions located in the area of the proposed facility.

Documentation of Community Outreach Efforts

The outreach program that has been conducted by PRE and which is associated with the subject CTDEP Volume Reduction Permit Application is summarized as follows:

1. PRE has maintained a website with project and contact information since February 2006 (see www.prellc.net)
2. During the initial planning stages of the project, PRE has undertaken an active dialogue with:
 - i. Town Government, including office of the Selectman and Economic Development Commission;
 - ii. The local business community;
 - iii. Environmental groups in the State and Region;
 - iv. CT DEP and EPA Region 1; and
 - v. Labor groups in eastern Connecticut. The purpose of these meetings was to convey information about the project and receive feedback regarding issues and conditions affecting the community. The efforts provided an understanding of proposed activities and suitability of the particular site.

3. A public informational meeting was conducted on Feb. 2, 2006 in the Plainfield Town Hall; this meeting was hosted by the Economic Development Commission. Please refer to the draft Community Outreach Plan and its associated appendices, contained in Appendix A of this document. Approximately 150 persons attended the meeting, including residents and town officials. Some residents of nearby communities were also in attendance. Appendix A also contains a copy of the presentation given by PRE at the meeting.
4. On August 10, 2006, PRE published notice of the submission of an Application to the CTDEP Air Bureau in the Norwich Bulletin, a copy of which was submitted to the CTDEP.
5. On August 16, 2006, PRE published notice of the submission of a Solid Waste Application to the CTDEP in the Norwich Bulletin, a copy of which was submitted to the CTDEP;
6. On October 11, 2006, PRE published notice of the then-upcoming informational meeting that took place on October 16, 2006 in the Norwich Bulletin (see below discussion). A copy of the notice is provided in Appendix B. See below discussion of the meeting.
7. Three (3) times each day on Oct. 12, 13, and 14, for a total of nine (9) announcements, a notice was provided on WILI FM radio of the upcoming October 16th informational meeting, and invited all interested parties to attend.
8. Invitations (see Appendix B) were hand-delivered to area properties in the vicinity of the proposed facility site, including:

<u>Address</u>	<u>Occupant and/or Owner From Assessor's Records</u>
833 Norwich Rd	Not available from Town Records
871 Norwich Rd	Not available from Town Records
915 Norwich Rd	915 Norwich Road, LLC of Danielson, CT (Note: the Town changed the zone of this parcel from RA-40 to C-1 in 2000)
925 Norwich Rd	Albert H. Wilcox, Sr. and Ann M. Wilcox
15 Tarbox Rd.	Dorothy A. Caron

Future community outreach efforts will be undertaken during the permitting process and throughout the life of the facility.

Future Permit Related Notices

The following additional public notices are expected to be published with regard to the project and related applications;

- It is expected that a notice will be published in the near future regarding an expected November 16, 2006 hearing of the Connecticut Siting Council on PRE's Application; and,
- At such time as the CTDEP reaches a Tentative Determination to issue permits, a subsequent legal notice will be published in the Norwich Bulletin.

October 16, 2006 Informational Meeting

An informational meeting was held in the Plainfield Town Hall at 5:30 P.M. on October 16th. Copies of sign-in sheets from the event are found in Appendix C.

PRE had eight (8) representatives available for the event, four from PRE and four independent experts that had prepared application materials. As a result, each attendee received at least one-on-one attention.

The event was conducted in an informal, open-house format, with project information distributed around the periphery of the room according to four general topic areas:

- Civil / Environmental Engineering
- Technology
- Fuel Sample & General Solid Waste Related Information
- Project Benefits to the Town, Region & State

Exhibits comprising a site plan, area map, figures of the process flow, the facility floor plan, a facility cross-section, photos of other existing biomass facilities, and related information were available for inspection. Additionally, a representative sample of biomass wood the project could utilize was available for inspection.

Each attendee was provided a copy of the brochure contained in Appendix D and able at their own pace to inspect each exhibit and ask questions about the project. Appendix E contains photos taken at the event.

Future Outreach Efforts

PRE will continue to inform the community of its proposed plans for this site and comply with the CTDEP requirements and guidelines. In addition, PRE will document and inform the CTDEP of any other future outreach efforts that are conducted on behalf of this project.

Results & Conclusions

PRE's outreach program with regard to the referenced permit applications has been comprehensive and successful, as evidenced by this report and the related attachments.

PRE will continue to be responsive to the community by discussing the applications with all interested parties and through proactive dialogue with the Town.

A

Appendix A

Draft Community Outreach/Environmental Justice Plan

PLAINFIELD RENEWABLE ENERGY LLC
Draft Community Outreach/Environmental Justice Plan

**Volume Reduction Facility
Mill Brook Road, Plainfield CT**

August 2006



By:



Anchor Engineering Services, Inc.
75 Nutmeg Lane
Glastonbury, Connecticut 06033
With Project Management Associates LLC

**PLAINFIELD RENEWABLE ENERGY LLC
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PLAN
VOLUME REDUCTION FACILITY
MILL BROOK ROAD, PLAINFIELD, CT**

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Appendices

- A – Legal Notice and Newspaper Articles Regarding Feb. 2, 2006 Public Informational Meeting
- B – Presentation Given at February 2, 2006 Public Informational Meeting

Introduction

Plainfield Renewable Energy LLC ("PRE") will be submitting applications to the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP):

- a. An application to construct and operate a volume reduction facility that would gasify biomass wood from a wide range of sources;
- b. An application to construct and operate an air emission source; and,
- c. Related applications for water supply and discharges.

The facility will accept and gasify biomass wood using a commercially proven technology. The gas stream will be used on-site to generate approximately 37.5 MW of renewable energy for delivery to the State's power system. The following biomass wood streams will be utilized, as may be defined in Connecticut applicable law (Statute and Regulation):

"Land Clearing Debris"; such as chipped trees, stumps, branches or brush;

"Recycled Wood" or Clean Wood"; chipped pallets, skids, spools, packaging materials, bulky wood waste or scraps from newly built wood products

"Regulated Wood Fuel"; consisting of processed wood from construction and demolition activities.

"Processed Construction and Demolition Wood"; consisting of processed wood recovered from construction and demolition activities.

"Other Clean Wood"; including other types of properly sized, clean, uncontaminated wood materials, such as sawdust, chips, bark, tree trimmings or other similar materials.

Superfund Site

Figure 1, on the following page, shows the location of the site and its vicinity. The site has been listed as a "superfund NPL site" due to the impact of illegal dumping that occurred from 1977 to 1978. A past clean-up was conducted by the CT DEP and an RI / FS is in place by the PRP Group. The approach, Monitored Natural Attenuation, is being undertaken by PRP Group and institutional controls have been implemented. A Covenant-Not-to-Sue is under review by the Department and is expected to be approved. Historical releases have migrated off-site and to the west. The project would not impact the areas where land use restrictions are in place, and would restore this parcel to the tax roles.

The Applicant

PRE is a Norwalk, CT based Joint Venture of NuPower & Decker. NuPower LLC is an in-State renewable power developer, and Decker Energy International, Inc. is a developer/operator of biomass projects. Decker has an ownership interest in three operating biomass facilities totaling 84 MW of capacity, with a combined \$150 million capital cost (one plant in Michigan and one in North Carolina).

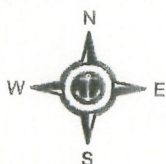
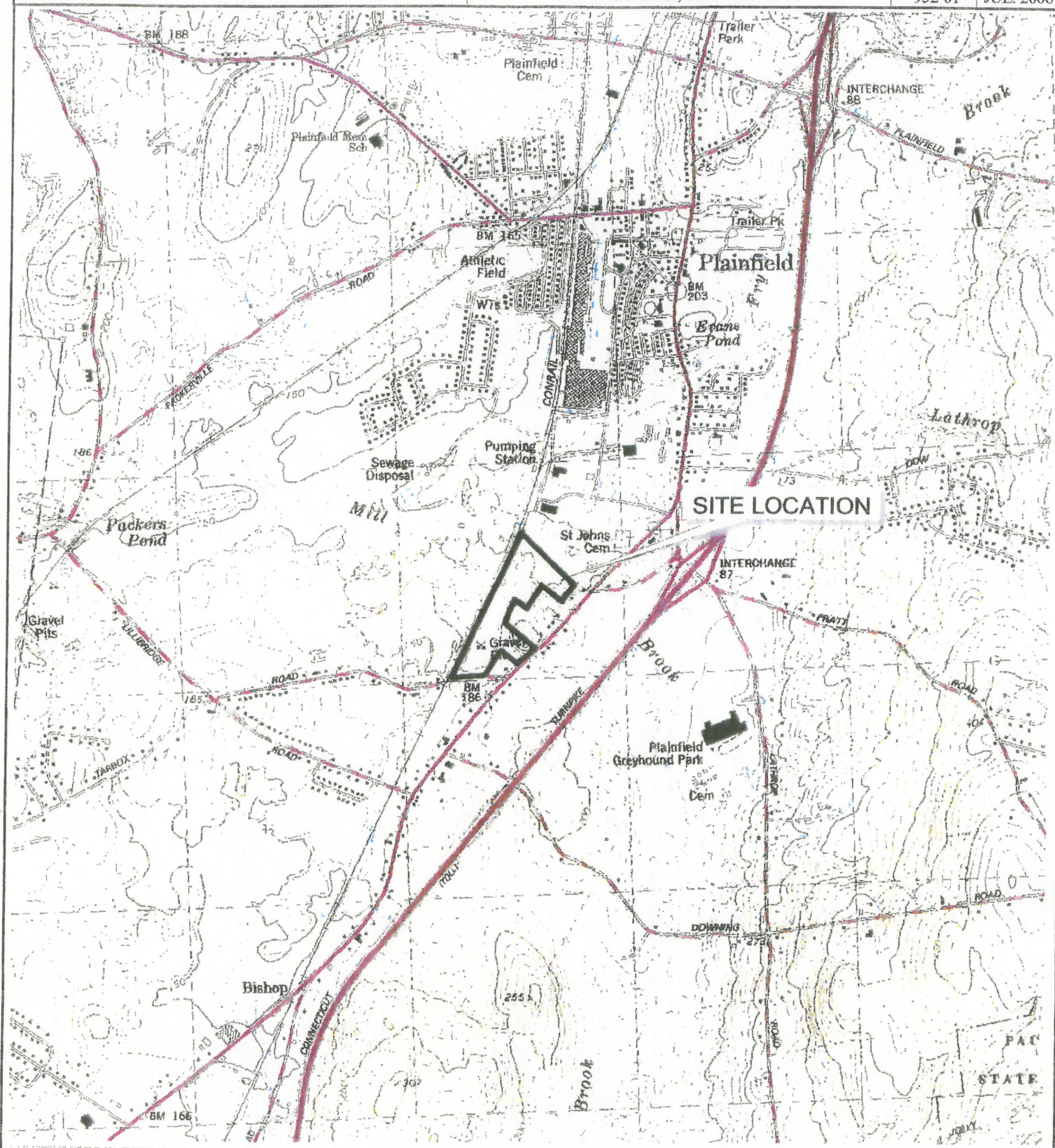


ANCHOR ENGINEERING SERVICES, INC.
75 NUTMEG LANE
GLASTONBURY, CONNECTICUT 06033
860-633-8770 FAX 860-633-5971

PLAINFIELD RENEWABLE
ENERGY, LLC
MILL BROOK ROAD
PLAINFIELD, CONNECTICUT

FIGURE 1

PROJECT	DATE
952-01	JUL 2006



2000 0 2000 Feet

USGS TOPO QUAD #58
PLAINFIELD, CT
41 39' 50"N 71 55' 28"W

Renewable Energy & Connecticut Clean Energy Fund

The project will qualify as a Class I renewable energy facility under Connecticut's energy statutes and the DPUC's interpretations. The project has entered into a development loan agreement with the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund, and anticipates participation in the State's Project 100 Program, which is designed to achieve a goal of 100 MW of new renewable energy generating capacity.

Impacted Community Areas

The facility will be located off of Mill Brook Road in Plainfield. The site is bordered by the Providence & Worcester Railroad on the west, State Route 12 (and certain parcels) on the east, Mill Brook on the north, and Mill Brook Road on the south. Existing facilities located in the immediate vicinity on the east are the Shetucket Plumbing Supply Co. at 873 Norwich Road and a few single family residential units located within the Industrial Zone. To the west, along, Mill Brook Road is the significant, relatively new Lowe's warehouse. The parcel to the south of the site and across Mill Brook Road is undeveloped.

Interstate 395 is very close to the site. The site is approached from I-395 by exiting onto Lathrop Road (exit 87) and then entering State Route 12. Refer to Figure 1 for a description of the site vicinity. The intersection of Route 12 and Mill Brook Road was improved as part of the Lowe's project, which is a major truck traffic generator. Vehicles will access the site from commercially traveled public highways and routes and are not required to travel through residential neighborhoods. There are no known community centers or educational institutions located in the area of the proposed facility.

Community Outreach Efforts

General

During the initial planning stages of the project, PRE has undertaken an active dialogue with:

- Town Government, including office of the Selectman and Economic Development Commission;
- The local business community;
- Environmental groups in the State and Region;
- CT DEP and EPA Region 1; and
- Labor groups in eastern Connecticut.

The purpose of these meetings has been to convey information about the project and receive feedback regarding issues and conditions affecting the community. These efforts have provided an understanding of proposed activities and suitability of the particular site.

Future community outreach efforts will be undertaken during the permitting process and throughout the life of the facility.

Recent Public Informational Meeting

In order to provide the residents, Town officials, and other interested parties with information regarding the proposed project, a public information meeting was held on Feb. 2, 2006 in the Plainfield Town Hall, hosted by the Economic Development Commission. Appendix A contains a copy of the legal notice of the upcoming informational meeting that was published in the Norwich Bulletin on January 23, 2006. Appendix A also contains newspaper articles that appeared both in advance and following the meeting.

Approximately 150 persons attended the meeting, including residents and town officials. Some residents of nearby communities were also in attendance. Appendix B contains a copy of the presentation given by PRE at the meeting. PRE has maintained a website with project and contact information since February 2006.

Permit Application Notices

Figure 2, on the following page provides a summary of community outreach efforts for the project, including the past February 2 informational meeting.

As summarized on Figure 2, the project anticipates several public notices will be associated with the permitting activities, including:

- In light of the project's anticipated filing of waste, air and water permit applications at the CT DEP, it is expected that the Department will conduct its permits review on a consolidated basis. An initial presentation was made by PRE to CT DEP bureau staff, and was arranged by Robert Kaliszewski, DEP Permit Ombudsman. Notices related to the DEP applications are expected to include:
 - At such time as the applications are filed, either a consolidated notice of permit applications, or, at a minimum, a notice will be placed in the Norwich Bulletin that a solid waste application has been filed at the Department;
 - At such time as the Department reaches a Tentative Determination to issue permits, a subsequent legal notice will be published in the Norwich Bulletin;
- PRE also anticipates it will be publishing legal notices at such time as it files applications with the Connecticut Siting Council and with the Town Planning & Zoning Commission and, potentially, Inland Wetlands Commission.

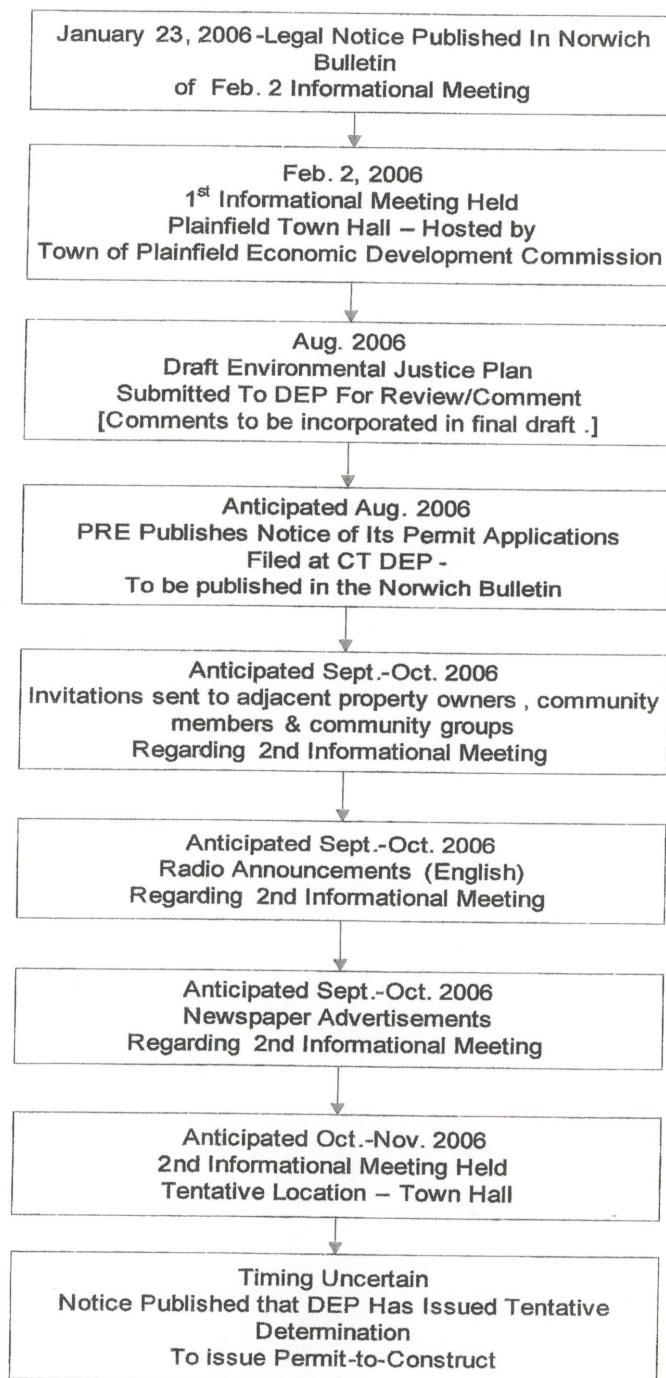
Future Outreach Efforts

PRE plans to conduct at least one additional outreach effort/informational meeting following the filing of all applications with the Connecticut DEP, and prior to the issuance of a Notice of Tentative Determination. Also prior to issuance of a Notice of Tentative Determination (NTD) regarding the PRE volume reduction facility permit application, PRE will submit a detailed report noting implementation of the Plan including the results of all interactions with the community. A detailed report will include an executive summary including an overview of activities, identify any impacted community (ies) and relevant issues, and will document the

public outreach efforts. PRE will also make such information available to the public and to the local organizations.

Figure 2 – Overview of Community Outreach Activities

**Plainfield Renewable Energy LLC
Community Outreach Activities**



Appendix A

**Public Notice and News Articles Regarding
February 2, 2006 Public Informational Meeting**



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Public Notice Plainfield Renewable Energy, LLC will make an informational presentation to the Town and elected officials at the Plainfield Economic Development Commission meeting on February 2, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Auditorium. The presentation will describe their plan to develop a 30 megawatt biomass gasification electric plant on Millbrook Rd in Plainfield. Public input will be accepted and a question and answer session will follow.

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NAT'L SPANISH NEWS

Power Plant Proposed For Plainfield

Facility Would Transform Wood Chips To Fuel For 30-megawatt Generator

By **MEGAN BARD**

Day Staff Writer, Plainfield/Griswold/Bozrah

Published on 1/24/2006

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Plainfield — The former Gallup superfund site off of Mill Brook Road might become home to a state-of-the art power plant.

The Plainfield Renewable Energy Group will present its proposal to build a biomass gasification energy production facility on the 30-acre property during a public hearing hosted by the town Economic Development Commission on Feb. 2 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall auditorium.

Although the \$70 million project will be built in town, local boards and commission do not have the authority to permit the development.

The state Siting Council and Department of Environmental Protection will review the proposal and decide whether the facility can be built, basing its decision on the development plan and feedback from residents.

Developer Sam McConnell, vice president of the Plainfield group, said Monday that he is anxious to hear from residents and to present details of the facility that will transform wood chips into a gas that will feed a generator to create 30 megawatts of electricity to be added to the region's power grid. The power plant would be small by industry standards.

"There is a shortage of in-state power and a

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definite shortage of in-state renewable power. We're using a wasted indigenous fuel source that is usually trucked out of state at a high cost ... and turning that into a clean renewable fuel," McConnell said.

During the hearing the Plainfield group will present maps and detailed plans to explain how the facility will operate and how it will generate electricity.

"It sounds complex but yet is pretty simple. It's technology that's been around for a long time and the details have been refined enough to make it very clean at a time when competing energy sources have become very expensive," McConnell said.

Decker Energy, a partner in the group, currently operates four older, but similar facilities in Michigan, North Carolina, and Florida. McConnell works for Decker, which has paired with NuPower, a Connecticut-based firm run by Scott Gilmartin and Dan Donovan, to create the Plainfield Renewable Energy Group.

Gilmartin and Donovan conceived the idea for the renewable biomass energy facility and found the Plainfield site, McConnell said.

If the plant is approved and fully operational it will help the state reach its goal of finding ways to produce 100 megawatts of clean, renewable power, McConnell said.

He estimated that the permitting process would take one year and that construction would take an additional 18 months. The group will submit its applications next month. Once approved roughly 200 construction workers will be needed to build the plant and once on-line 20 to 25 employees will operate the facility.

Trucks hauling the waste, which includes virgin timber and construction wood that has been chipped and cleaned at an off-site processing plant, will enter the site from Mill Brook Road and drive onto hydraulic lifts to be tipped up at a 45-degree angle and emptied into a screening process.

A conveyor belt will bring the three-inch chips through the screening process to insure that any potential contaminants, such as plastics, have been removed before the chips are stored in in-door and out-door areas. The chips are then sent through a series of material handling belts and conveyors into the gasification unit where they will go through a two-stage process including gasification and combustion. The gas is then sent to the generator to create electricity. Any excess gas is emitted through a stack.

McConnell said the facility will meet all state requirements for low emissions.

First Selectman Kevin Cunningham said an immediate positive aspect of the proposal is that the development would reclaim an identified brownfield site and make it a tax generating property again. The company has an option to purchase the property, which is still owned by the Gallup family estate.

McConnell said other towns were considered, but the group chose Plainfield because of its proximity to Interstate 395 and because it should have little impact on the

Alliance

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community. The property is bordered by Mill Brook Road to the south, the railroad to the west, and power lines to the north. There are houses to the east along Route 12, but McConnell said the topography of the land will provide a natural buffer.

m.bard@theday.com ■

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Plant 'unique' option for Plainfield Energy: Company to hear concerns

By DON BOND
Norwich Bulletin

PLAINFIELD -- Companies in Norwalk and Wellesley, Mass., want to combine their resources to build a \$60 million plant to create energy from scrap wood off Mill Brook Road, near the new Lowe's Distribution Center.

The companies, New Power, based in Norwalk, and Decker Energy, a Florida-based company with offices in Wellesley, will outline their proposal for the plant, which will use a low emission biomass gasification process, to the town's Economic Development Commission at a public meeting Feb. 2. The two companies have created the Plainfield Renewable Energy Group and will establish the Plainfield project under that name.

ADVERTISEMENT

Scott Gilmartin, a principal in New Power, said the proposed plant would use a combination of timber and construction wood as its fuel source for producing the energy. The plant would produce 30 megawatts of energy that could be added to the region's power grid.

He said the proposed plant would help meet a state mandate 30 percent of the energy produced in Connecticut come from what are termed "Class 1" sources. These include biomass gasification, wind, solar, fuel cells and landfill gasses.

Exeter Energy Corp. in Sterling announced recently it is exploring using the entire 73-acres of Phase II of Sterling's industrial park for an energy-producing windmill farm. Its plant in the original Sterling Industrial Park produces energy by burning used tires.

Gilmartin said wood is an energy source that is plentiful in Connecticut, in forests and from demolition of buildings.

"One-third of the state's solid waste is wood," Gilmartin said. "It costs a disposal firm at least \$45 a ton to dispose of wood material. We'll pay them to bring that wood to us and cut their disposal costs nearly in half. As I see it, it doesn't make sense to throw away material that has a potential use."

He said the 30-acre Mill Brook Road property meets several of his company's requirements. It is close to an electric substation and a major highway and has rail access.

He said 40 to 60 trucks of wood would be hauled daily to the proposed plant.

"With all the trucks already going to and from Lowe's, I don't believe that will have a significant impact on residents of the area," he said.

Dave Ertsgard of Central Village, president of Concerned Citizens for the Quiet Corner, a group that cited environmental concerns among its reasons for opposing a proposed auto racetrack, said he's keeping an open mind

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AT A GLANCE

- In biomass gasification, the volatiles in it are released and moved to the next phase of the water, creating steam. The steam turbine, creating the electrical energy

WHAT'S NEXT

- The proposal goes before Development Commission at 7 Hall. The energy plant will require Connecticut Siting Council and by the state Department of Environmental Management

about this project.

"Ironically, a local business had proposed a similar project a couple of years ago, but it was overlooked by the previous town administration in favor of the racetrack," he said. "I think it's good the proposed energy plant could tap into existing resources, but I want to hear their complete plan before I make a decision."

Gilmartin said the project would provide about 200 union jobs during construction and employ 25 to 30 people full-time if it becomes operational. He said the project also could create up to 50 jobs in services related to the project.

First Selectman Kevin Cunningham said the fact the project requires Connecticut Siting Council review and permits, and the state Department of Environmental Protection would monitor emissions, helps make the project attractive.

"The fact it would provide the town with at least \$500,000 -- the equivalent of about one mill -- in tax revenue, and create up to 30 well-paying jobs, is very significant," Cunningham said.

"This is a unique opportunity for Plainfield.

"I'm also impressed by the fact the company has indicated it wants to hear and address any concerns our residents may have," Cunningham said.

Gilmartin said the company would have to meet the state's new source emissions standards, which, he said, are stringent.

He said the developers hope to obtain Siting Council and DEP approvals this year and begin construction in 2007.

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By **PAUL CHOINIERE**
Development reporter
Published on 1/25/2006

Plainfield — David Ertsgard and the group he leads, Concerned Citizens of the Quiet Corner, are marshaling opposition to a proposal to build a power plant in town.

The opposition emerged Tuesday, one day after the Plainfield Renewable Energy Group went public with plans for a 30-megawatt plant that would burn a renewable fuel source, wood chips, to generate electricity.

Ertsgard has been a leader of efforts to block construction of a domed auto racetrack here. Proposed by New England Raceway Inc., it was to be built off Exit 87 of Interstate 395, but no plans for the project have been submitted. Ertsgard is a party to two lawsuits challenging the legality of zone changes adopted to accommodate the racetrack.

In announcing opposition to the power plant proposal, Ertsgard cited concerns about the potential effect on the environment, traffic and potential odor problems. He said details about the opposition would be announced as soon as today.

"These guys are in for a nasty fight," Ertsgard said of the plant developers.

Scott Guilmartin, an employee of NuPower, one of the companies investing in the project, said all concerns and questions will be addressed at a public information session

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scheduled for 7 p.m. Feb. 2 at Town Hall. He urged people to keep an open mind about the project until they have heard the facts.

The facility would transform wood chips into a gas that would feed a generator to produce electricity. The company claims the process is clean and environmentally friendly.

Liz Swenson, director of economic development for Plainfield, said she does not yet have enough information to judge the project. The plant would be built on Mill Brook Road at a former industrial site.

The developers estimate the plant would employ 25 to 30 workers.

First Selectman Kevin Cunningham responded positively to the proposal, noting that it would make reuse of a former industrial property, create jobs and generate as much as \$500,000 a year in property taxes.

Another opponent of the racetrack, Hector Rodriguez, expressed disappointment with the first selectman, saying he would have expected him to take a neutral position until the project is fully evaluated.

"It is too soon to support it. ... Why is he jumping on the bandwagon?" Rodriguez said. "Groups will organize against this."

"There is this perception out there that Plainfield basically consists of villages of fairly simple people who really don't understand complex issues," he said. "So developers say: 'Let's go into that town and see what we can build.' We plan to change that perception." ■

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